

That which is claimed is:

1. An inflatable box comprising an inflatable box made up of a rigid material (or the like) ²¹² attached to an inner inflatable cushion with a bottom that is attached to the inside walls of the box which can be inflated through a valve, wherein:

the box includes bottom closing flaps;

the inflatable cushion covers the inside walls and the bottom of the box;

and a valve which connects the outside of the box through a hollow lumen to the inside of the cushion allowing air to pass through from the outside of the box to the inside of the cushion.

2. A method for packaging an article using an inflatable box comprising an outer rigid cardboard material or the like with bottom and top flaps, and a flexible inflatable cushion that is attached to the inside walls of the box which can be inflated through a valve, wherein the method to inflate the box comprises the steps of:

closing the bottom flaps of the box;

placing the article to be shipped into the box;

closing the top flaps of the box;

filling the box with air through the valve.

3. The inflatable box according to claim 1 wherein said filling medium is air.